

a mother. That time isn't when I have \$81,000 in medical school debt after just 2 years of medical school. That time isn't when I study for most hours of the day. That time isn't when I have no job, and my only source of 'income' is the overpayment checks I receive for my financial aid.

Birth control is important to me because I can't be a mother right now but want to have the option in the future. Birth control gives me the option to retain a somewhat normal intimate life with my partner of 8 years while still protecting my dreams of a future in medicine. That future would be extremely hard to obtain with an infant to care for.

Contraception has transformed our society by allowing women like Katy to take their own health and their own future into their own hands. Women have the power to decide when and how many children to have, which has allowed them to pursue successful careers and enter the workforce like never before.

But in the end, this is not about work versus home life. This is about empowering women to decide for themselves. Birth control lets women choose their own life paths, and that's why it is vital that we protect it.

I also want to remind opponents of contraception coverage that contraception prevents abortion. Nearly half—49 percent—of pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended, and 42 percent of unintended pregnancies end in abortion. Although abortion and contraception are one degree removed, it is easy to see that increased use of contraception will reduce unintended pregnancies and, therefore, reduce abortion rates.

The data shore this up as well. According to a study published in the American Journal of Public Health, the recent decline in pregnancy rates amongst American teens "appears to be following the patterns observed in other developed countries, where improved contraception use has been the primary determinant of declining rates."

Teen pregnancy is at a 30-year low, due in large part to increased contraception use. Another recent study found that California's family-planning program averted nearly 300,000 unintended pregnancies, 100,000 abortions and 38,000 miscarriages.

Finally, a Guttmacher Institute study of nationwide family planning programs found similar reports. According to Guttmacher:

Publicly funded contraceptive services and supplies help women in the U.S. avoid nearly 2 million unintended pregnancies each year.

In the absence of such services—from family planning centers and from doctors serving Medicaid patients, estimated U.S. levels of unintended pregnancy, abortion and unintended birth would be nearly two-thirds higher among women overall, and nearly twice as high among poor women.

There can be no denying that contraception prevents abortion. This means abortion opponents should be bolstering contraception programs, not banning them.

We should be able to find common ground on the issue of contraception—

a basic health service already utilized by the vast majority of American women.

I hope we can work together to expand important investments in family planning such as title X and Medicaid.

And I hope we can move forward with the important new rule requiring coverage of contraception, to empower women, improve health, save lives, and reduce abortions.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 4 p.m. and the balance of the week.

Ms. MOORE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family medical emergency.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1886. An act to prevent trafficking in counterfeit drugs, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4105. An act to apply the counterfeiting duty provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 to nonmarket economy countries, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 8, 2012, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5196. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Indoxacarb; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0578; FRL-9336-7] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5197. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Report to Congress on the Review of Laws, Policies and Regulations Restricting the Service of Female Members in the U.S. Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5198. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting a letter regarding special account funds; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5199. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0761; FRL-9501-6] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5200. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Designations for the 2010 Primary Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0572; FRL-9624-3] (RIN: 2060-AR06) received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5201. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Preconstruction Permitting Requirements for Electric Generating Stations in Maryland [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0623; FRL-9628-7] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5202. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee: Chattanooga; Particulate Matter 2002 Base year Emissions Inventory [EPA-R04-OAR-2011-0084-201167(a); 9628-2] received February 9, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5203. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of Florida; Control of Large Municipal Waste Combustor (LMWC) Emissions From Existing Facilities; Correction [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-0392(a); FRL-9628-6] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5204. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revisions to the Administrative Rules of Montana — Air Quality, Subchapter 7, Exclusion for De Minimis Changes [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0100; FRL-9495-9] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5205. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Modification of Significant New Uses of Tris Carbamoyl Triazine [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2011-0108; FRL-9330-6] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5206. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, California Air Resources Board — Consumer Products [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0800; FRL-9609-7] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.